Society of Enquiry
Princeton N.J.

W. T. Seminary D. 7/50

Dear Brethren – From some irregularity in keeping the records of our society, during the last two, or three years, it has become impossible, for us, to determine the state of our correspondence with you. We do not know, whether the exchange of letters between us, has ceased, from a neglect, on our part, to write to you, finding us dull & unprofitable correspondents, have ceased to answer. But one thing is certain, instead of the very large, extended, and (to us) profitable intercourse, which our society lately sustained we are not, at present, in active communication with any of our sister institutions. This is a condition deeply regretted by us; since in our cause, can mutual sympathy, give greater encouragement or more effectual aid, than in the Missionary enterprise. It is so far removed from the desires of the natural heart, which loves darkness rather than light, & evil more than good, that it is shut out from a place in the hearts of men in general, and will find true supporters, only, among those who love holiness of heart & life. While the field before us is so vast, the end to be accomplished so great, & those engaged therein so few, surely these few should be joined in the closest union, bound together in the strongest ties. In an age, when all the energies of life are roused up, & Ambition reigns with supreme control, when discovery succeeds discovery, & each new invention presses hard upon the heels of a predecessor, & in a country where the lowest citizen may aspire to wealth and distinction, where even now, an humble mechanic fills the highest seat of Honor, we are apt to forget the command which forbids us to "seek great things" for ourselves We lose sight of the land that is very far off for "whose inhabitants

shale not say Damn such," we dream of riches and pleasures and are willing to make our home in this wretched wilderness

And here, lies the root of much of the coldness, manifested on Missionary subjects, we ourselves, becoming satisfied with an earthly portion, feel not the misery of those who have no other inheritance

Surely then, we need that association, which "as iron sharpeneth iron, shale strengthen our purpose, and warm our hearts in this great work. For this purpose, we wish to be again, actively engaged in correspondence, with all those, who like ourselves, are pledged to labor for the salvation of a lost world. We would be glad, should you favor us with an answer, if you would tell us, the number of Students at your Seminary; How many of them are likely to go to a Domestic or foreign field, and any other information, in reference to missions, that would be interesting or profitable, And not only so, but feeling, that we are far from that entire devotion, which is due to Christ and his cross, we shall count those our dearest friends, who will "show unto us a more excellent way," who by exhortation and zeal will "consider to provoke unto love and to good works," It was, while David "was musing the fire burned" and we are so constituted, that next to frequent meditation our hearts are most effected, by conversation, about the object of our love. Let us then, imitate those of old who "spake often one to another," to whom the Lord hearkened, and let our thoughts, and our tongues, dwell much on the importance of Salvation

This, at first, may seem a topic, more fit to be recommended to the worldly and unconverted, than to Church Members and theological Students who are supposed to have given a proper attention to this subject Perhaps, in a certain personal sense, this may be true. But is not the work of

redemption undervalued by those who are its subjects? And is not this the case, when Missionary claims are urged, chiefly, by considerations drawn from this world. If it be true, that men have undying souls. Their salvation swallows up every other interest, & we need not, if we appreciate their infinite value, be told of temporal suffering, as we rush to rescue them from eternal death. If a sight of that gulf whence we have escaped, if a foretaste of that heaven for whose glories we are preparing, will not fill our hearts with compassion for those who are going down to hell, it is scarcely possible, they will be moved, by the transient evils of this life. As we are travelling to a better country, its language should be upon our tongues. Its light should illuminate our path, & by its unchanging standard, should all our conduct be determined; never should we appeal to the false weights, & deceitful measures of this world, every action should be brought to the balance of the sanctuary. If our views of duty are to be vivid and constraining; the principles from which they spring must be clearly perceived & deeply felt, not coldly floating amid the intellectual speculations of philosophy, but mingling with the warm emotions of the heart, stirring up the gushing fountains of feeling, they must be, as "fire shut up in the bones," Our religion must not be buried among the lumber of worldly maxims, nor must it as some philosophers would teach us, be like water conforming itself to the channel of political institutions, the mere creature of intellectual tendencies & national impulses. But as it surpasses every thing else in its excellence & importance, so it must have an individual existence of its own. Its supremacy should be seen in moulding every thing else like leaven

it should pervade the whole mass, and change it into its own nature. Its great truths, should be living realities, swaying our conduct no less imperatively than the pressing calls of nature for food, and raiment. As it is the great concern, so, it should be the absorbing thought of our lives. Our conversation our actions all that metes up our outward character, should be a visible development of the law written on our hearts. Bringing our devotion, to the cause of Christ, up to this standard, with a living appreciation of the value of souls, there will be no want, of missionary spirit among the churches.

In conclusion, of our own institution we would say, the good hand of our God, has been upon us for good. We have been prospering, to the full measure of our expectations. Our number of students is fifty, our senior class has sixteen, of these one half or more speak of the West as the scene of their future labors. Of laborers for the foreign field we cannot speak with any certainty. though, as light is often raised from darkness, so, from weakness may come both strength, & we may yet, see some of our number going to heathen lands.

Hoping for an early answer we remain

Your Brethren in Christ

On behalf of society

D. M. C. Anderson

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